

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



## About WPD



**Captain Jay Lengfeld**

The Madison Police Department will again be conducting an online community survey this year. Last year the West District had the highest number of surveys completed of all the districts and we would like to see even more this year. The information collected through these surveys is very important to the district and last year's results were shared with the officers at this year's district in-service. We have found that the written comments made on the surveys have been extremely useful. Please take the 5-10 minutes to fill out a survey and make sure your neighbors and friends also fill one out. The survey can be found at:

[www.madisonpolice.com](http://www.madisonpolice.com)

then click on "West" and then click on "community survey" in the yellow box. If the above page does not open when you click on the above address, please type it in on the address bar. If you do not have access to a computer, please call 243-0500 for a hard copy of the survey. Thank you for taking the time to do this survey for the department.

The West Community Policing Team was scheduled to receive an additional officer in late June of 2008 from the accelerated academy. The department and the community recognized that this position needed to be filled prior to June, so I am happy to introduce Officer John Amos as our newest member of the West Community Policing Team. He will focus on the Russett/Balsam area for the next month.

Enjoy the weather and be safe!

## Patrol Operations



**Lieutenant Victor Wahl**

The Madison Police Department responded to **3,224** calls for police service in the West District during the month of March, an average of **104** per day. These incidents

included:

3	Sexual assaults
9	Robberies
4	Aggravated batteries
10	Weapons offenses/gun calls
63	Burglaries
28	Thefts from autos
18	Stolen autos
239	Motor vehicle crashes
39	Batteries
74	Retail thefts
80	Disturbances
69	Domestic Disputes

Some of the noteworthy incidents:

**Homicide, 4600 Atticus Way** – On March 8 at about 4:30am, WPD officers responded to a disturbance in the 4600 block of Atticus Way. A male victim was found outside a building, unresponsive. He was conveyed to a local hospital, where he died several days later. The suspect was arrested at the scene. Investigation showed that the two individuals had started arguing, and that the argument had escalated into a physical fight (resulting in a blow to the victim's head).

**Robbery, 5602 Tokay Boulevard** – On March 10 at about 1pm, WPD officers responded to a robbery at the West Metro Transfer Point. A Metro bus rider had been using his laptop computer on a bus that was stopped at the Transfer Point. A teenage suspect struck the rider, grabbed the computer and fled on foot. The suspect – a 16 year old – was arrested by a responding officer a short time later.

**Patrol Operations Continued...**

**Arson Investigation, 6200 Putnam Road** – On March 18 at about 8am, WPD officers responded to a residence in the 6200 block of Putnam Road for an arson. A homeowner discovered that someone had placed newspapers in their mailbox and set them on fire during the night. Investigation continuing.

**Robbery, 6698 Odana Road** – On March 19 at about 2:30pm, WPD officers responded to a robbery at Amcore Bank, located at 6698 Odana Road. The suspect presented a note demanding money and fled on foot. Investigation continuing.

**Retail Theft/Recklessly Endangering Safety, 4716 Verona Road** – On March 22 at about 1:30pm, WPD officers responded to the Cub Foods at 4716 Verona Road. Store employees had attempted to detain a retail theft suspect, when the suspect produced a utility knife. The suspect swung the knife at the employees, narrowly missing them. He then fled on foot, but was apprehended by a responding MPD officer a short time later.

**Traffic enforcement:** West District officers issued **432** total citations in March, consisting of **211** "hazardous" traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); **125** "non-hazardous" traffic violations (typically equipment, registration or licensing violations) and **96** municipal ordinance violations (disorderly conduct, retail theft, etc.). This is an average of about **7** citations per officer.

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## Neighborhood Officers

### Allied Drive



**Officer Carren Corcoran**



**Officer John Messer**

On April 19<sup>th</sup> Dream Bikes had its grand opening. Dream Bikes is a non-profit bike store that is staffed by neighborhood kids. Bikes are donated and the kids clean and tune up the bikes for resale.

The grand opening was a hit. Folks from around the area stopped in to eat, shop, and enter in the bike raffle. Five

### **Allied Continued...**

bikes were given away and the food from local businesses (Noodles, Sentry, Ancore Coffee, Einstein's, and Glass Nickel) was delicious. T-shirts, hats, and bike sandals were also given away.

Two organized bike rides were completed at 11:00am and 1:30pm. Children decorated their bikes with streamers and the rides traveled through Marlborough Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Officer Cindy Thiesenhusen (Wexford Neighborhood) assisted us by participating in the event and bike rides. Fun and fair weather made the event memorable.

Dream Bikes is located at 4611 Verona Road. If you would like to learn more you can view their website at:

[www.dream-bikes.org](http://www.dream-bikes.org)

or contact Kevin Short at 608-467-6315.

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## Hammersley



**Officer Mike Hanson**

Last month Falk School hosted a Job Skills workshop aimed at teaching adults necessary skills to write out an application, interview for a job, find a job and learn more about today's work-world. This inaugural workshop, as presented by the Urban League, had 17 people participate and at the end of the week, several employers came for a job fair. This program will continue to grow off of the success of our first attempt.

In following Officer Caleb Bedford's tradition of having quarterly neighborhood safety meetings, I have scheduled our next one for Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in the West District Community Room. I will go over police "calls for service" information; expand as much as I can on some higher profile calls in our neighborhood and answer any questions you may have. I also want to take this meeting opportunity to brainstorm ideas on an on-going summertime problem in the neighborhood. The pre-teen to teenage level of kids are roaming in the middle of the roads, particularly Hammersley and Prairie Rd; obstructing traffic and causing a safety hazard. One option is to write citation after citation to the violators; which temporarily relieves the problem for an hour or so; yet we need to think of more ideas to assist with this nuisance.

### **Hammersley Continued...**

Finally, over 50 people responded to my email asking for volunteers to be "safety walkers" in the neighborhood. I am coordinating with the Mayor's Office on when our first walk will be as he would like to attend. The goal is to rain walkers to be safe and good observers of what is happening in the neighborhood.

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### **Wexford**



**Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen**

Spring has sprung and so have the calls that come with the increasingly beautiful temperatures. As I look through the calls for service the past couple of months, I am seeing a dramatic increase. In February, there were a total of 37 calls for service in the Wexford Ridge neighborhood. In March, there were 57 calls for service. As of April 20<sup>th</sup>, there have been 44 calls for service. The increase that I am keenly aware of is that of juvenile issues.

Lunchtime at Memorial is a busy time for the students to wander into the neighborhood. I have been issuing trespass citations to students who clearly do not have the need to be on the property (i.e.. they do not live here). Also, students who have decided to skip out of classes after the lunchtime is over, will find me either directing them back to school, or I will be giving them a ride back to school. There tends to be a lot of opportunity for these students to get into trouble when they are not in school and not supervised. I believe it is important to try to take that opportunity away.

Juvenile issues are also popping up on the various playgrounds on the property. I have received numerous complaints of play fighting that turns into someone getting hurt (usually the spectator). My approach will be to find the child or children that are most involved and return them to a parent. Educating both the juvenile and parent of appropriate behaviors on the playgrounds.

Over the last few weeks, Flower lane has been hit hard with graffiti. This graffiti is gang related. The gang that is affiliated with the graffiti is called C-14, which has a connection to the Surenos and the SSL's (South Side Locos). I am not well versed on this gang, although I do

### **Wexford Continued...**

know that it is a Hispanic gang and is in search of gaining territory. Some of these members were recently caught and cited for graffiti at the park near Tree lane and High Point Rd. I will be looking further into this recent graffiti trend in the neighborhood. I am not aware of any members that actually reside in the neighborhood.

"Connections" 2008 has a date: July 11<sup>th</sup>. This event will be bigger and better. I already have a number of things lined up and I continue to find more. There are a number of people and businesses on board. The Becker Law Office, Famous Footwear, Habush Habush & Rottier, Meridian Management, the City of Madison, and the Madison Police are just a few of the already committed. This year's theme is all about bicycle safety. There will be a drawing for a 2 bicycles, free bike licenses and helmets, food, 3 on 3 basketball, Double Dutch, and much more! Connection's is about connecting with the children.

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### **Community Policing Team**



**Sergeant Linda Kosovac**

Our Community Policing Team is pleased to introduce to you a new team member. He is Police Officer John Amos who comes to us with 7 years of police experience. Officer Amos will be concentrating his efforts in the Balsam/Russett neighborhood. In his first week with us, he has spent much of his time on foot patrol and already has several ideas on how to assist in making improvements in the neighborhood. Look for the big guy in uniform—you can't miss him!

Our battle with the weather has finally ended and the streets are no longer icy and snow covered. While traveling is obviously much easier, we are seeing an increase in speeding and traffic violations that need to be addressed. Our unit, as well as the West District Patrol Officers receives a regular update on speeding/driving complaints. One method we use to address these complaints is what we call a "speed wave". We take a group of officers to the complaint area. (You may see a group of squad cars lined up on your street for no apparent reason). These squads are lined up waiting to stop cars for speeding violations. We assign a "point officer" who is equipped with a hand held laser devise that captures the speed of a particular car. This

**Community Policing Team Continued...**

“point officer” then locks in the speed of the offending vehicle and calls out the description and speed of the offending vehicle. One of the squads lined up on the street then pulls out from the line and stops the offending vehicle. Citations are issued accordingly. Please pay attention to the speed limits! We’d prefer to meet each of you in a different light, rather than an introduction through a traffic ticket.

**Memorial High School**



**Officer Shannon Blackamore**

During the month of March there were a number of police calls here at Memorial High School. There were 11 total calls for service for the month. The following is a breakdown on the call types:

- Theft (Cell phone)
- Theft (Stolen Stereo from vehicle)
- Juvenile Complaint
- Stalking Complaint
- Adult Arrest
- Threats Complaint
- Damaged Property Complaint
- Sex Offense
- Accident – Property Damage
- Assist Citizen
- Assist/ community Policing

March was a pretty quiet month and we are hoping to continue this through the month of April.



Two handguns recently recovered by WPD detectives.

**WPD Tour**

WPD Officer Dave Bielski recently led a group of Korean adoptees on a tour of West PD. The kids were able to see the building, look inside an MPD squad, get fingerprinted, and meet MPD K9 Ivan.

